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**To: Local Boards of Health and Stakeholders**

**From: Priscilla Neves, RS, CP-FS, MEd.  
Director, Food Protection Program**

**Date: May 21, 2010**

**Re: Fraudulent Food Inspector Complaints**

This memo is to alert you that the Food Protection Program has received three complaints within the last month about individuals pretending to be local and state food inspectors under various aliases. Health Departments in Winchester, Greenfield and Boston have confirmed that health department impersonators are calling or visiting ethnic food establishments in an attempt to gain entry or schedule a routine food inspection or investigation of a foodborne illness outbreak. One establishment operator was told to expect a phone call, in which they would be required to confirm potentially personal information in order to schedule an inspection. It is possible that these calls are coming in from a commercial call center.

Please warn your local food establishment operators and other stakeholders about these complaints and remind them not to allow anyone without proper identification, into their establishment to conduct a food inspection nor provide or confirm personal information to anyone on the phone or in person pretending to be the local or state health department. They should also immediately call their local police department if they suspect that a person is acting fraudulently.

Educational materials for food establishment owners and managers to increase employee awareness of suspicious behavior are available at:

FDA ALERT

<http://www.fda.gov/food/fooddefense/training/alert/default.htm>

FDA FIRST

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodDefense/Training/ucm135038.htm>